

WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays
(316) 337-9262
Fax (316) 337-9266
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/



H2O Happenings Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

April - June 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2

Adventures Await...

A visit to the park can be an opportunity for discovery, exploration and adventure.

Often it is the smallest event that causes us to slow down, listen, touch or reflect. The gurgling sound of a waterfall or the shrill call of a kingfisher can change our focus from “getting down the trail” to “Wow isn’t that neat?”

- ✓ Alternate what time of day you visit the park. The park wildlife is more active and often visible in the mornings and evenings.
- ✓ Give your other senses a try. Pause on one of the bridges and close your eyes--you may “see” more things by using your ears.



- ✓ Take a “mini” hike. Stop and look at the bark of a tree or at the leaves of the tall grasses and image the path that an insect would hike over the same terrain.

On your next visit to the WATER Center, challenge yourself to find something new or something different.

Wildlife migrates through the park and flower blooming cycles are always changing. A new adventure is bound to await you anytime you visit one of Wichita’s naturalized parks and green spaces.

- ✓ If you always start at the same place in the park, walk the trails in the opposite direction. You may see things differently from a new perspective.
- ✓ Venture off the trail. Walk along the edge of the creek and watch as frogs jump out of your way and minnows scatter into deeper waters.

Finding something unexpected can turn an everyday occurrence into a fond memory.

There are a few things you can do to guarantee an “adventure” when you visit the WATER Center:

An Opportunity for a Family Adventure

The WATER Center has a new opportunity for small groups – *Family Adventure Packs!*

Whether visiting as a family, a home school, or just as a group of friends, the *Family Adventure Packs* will provide unique activities for use on the trails.

The packs can be checked out for up to two hours at a time and contain storybooks,

investigation tools and activities custom designed for the WATER Center trails. There are three pack themes currently available: “Up in the Air,” “Under Water,” and “Around Town.”

There is no fee to check out a backpack. However, a current

driver's license will be collected at the time of checkout and returned when the pack and all its materials are checked-in.



What’s Inside?

- Unlikely Volunteers
- River Trash Round-Up, May 6th
- Save Water this Summer
- Meetings and Events
- Program Schedule

What’s New?

On Display

Four new posters are now on permanent display in the WATER Center classroom.

From the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife resources, the posters show the complex underwater ecosystems found in rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands.

Be sure on your next visit to walk into the classroom and spend some time looking at these beautiful and detailed prints.



Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays

The **WATER Center**
is located in:
Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset
18-hole disc golf course
Accessible trails
Playground equipment
Picnic areas

Skateboarding, swimming and fishing are prohibited



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Participant Name: _____ Circle one: M F
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____
E-mail: _____
Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: _____
Parent/Leader Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 14	Youth Volunteer Day	9-11 AM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 14	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 8	Summer In-Seine-ity I	2-4 PM	Grade 4-8	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 15	Summer In-Seine-ity II	2-4 PM	Grade 9-12	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 20	Paint With the Earth	2-4 PM	Grade 6-12	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 29	Junior Detectives	10-11 AM	Grade K-2	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 23	Youth Volunteer Day	9-11 AM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 23	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free

REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals _____. Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.
Mail Registration and Fees to: **PROGRAMS, WATER Center,**
101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211
Or Fax: **316-337-9266**

Happenings

Program Schedule

Youth Volunteer Days

Youth Volunteer Days are for children **ages 8-15** years old. Registration is required. There will be youth volunteer activities from **9 a.m. – 11 a.m.** and from **1 p.m. until 3 p.m.** on the following days:

Friday, April 14th

Project: Park –wide trash roundup and gardening.

Friday, June 23rd

Project: Stream maintenance, gardening and museum projects.

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

April

5th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

12th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

21st Arkansas River Coalition 6:30-9:30 PM

May

3rd District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

10th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

19th Arkansas River Coalition 6:30-9:30 PM

June

7th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

14th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

16th Arkansas River Coalition 6:30-9:30 PM

Youth

FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month

April 11th, May 9th, June 13th - 10 AM

Ages 2-6, Free, no registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Friday, April 14th &

Friday, June 23rd

9:00 – 11:00 AM and/or 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ages 8-15, Free, registration required

Help the museum staff with WATER Center projects.

SUMMER IN-SEINE-ITY I

Thursday, June 8th, 2-4 PM

Grades: 4-8, Fee: \$2.00, registration required

Discover how scientists study the fish that are found in the Arkansas River.

Adult

WICHITA WATER WORKSHOP

Project WET & WET in the City!

Tuesday, June 13th – Wednesday June 14th

9: 00 AM – 3:00 PM, \$40

To register, contact KACEE at 785-532-3322 or www.kacee.org

This workshop is a professional development opportunity for formal and non-formal educators and is open to any interested adults.

Project WET is a water education program that promotes critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible decision-making in water related issues.

SUMMER IN-SEINE-ITY II

Thursday, June 15th, 2-4 PM

Grades: 9-12, Fee: \$2.00, registration required

How many kinds of fish are in the river? What is the most common...the most rare? Think you know? Slip on some waders and go seining with the WATER Center staff to discover the answers.

PAINT WITH THE EARTH

Tuesday, June 20th, 2-4 PM

Grades: 6-12, Fee: \$2.00, registration required

Soil is one of our most important resources in Kansas. It is responsible for healthy crops, diverse prairies and rich wetlands. The colors and textures of native soils vary dramatically across the state. Create a painting using a variety of Kansas' soils.

JUNIOR DETECTIVES

Thursday, June 29th, 10-11 AM

Grades: K-2, Fee: \$2.00, registration required

Learn to be a wildlife detective. Track what mysterious animal has left clues all over the WATER Center.

WET in the City is a new water education program that compliments the materials in Project WET by providing urban-focused activities and additional information to meet the unique needs of urban educators.

The workshop will also include field trips and information on the E.A.R.T.H. program, the Water Spout Garden Program, and local water resources.

Participants will receive two activity guides--Project WET and WET in the City, as well as materials related to the water spout garden curriculum and other resource materials.

~Senior Wednesdays~

No Registration Required

RECYCLE THIS!

Wednesday, April 5th

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Common objects around the house can be remade into fun and useful items. See what you can do with all those grocery store bags, soda bottles and more!

RIVERSIDE POSTCARDS

Wednesday, May 3rd

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Jim Mason of the Great Plains Nature

Center will present a visual history of the Riverside area shown through historical postcards.

FISH STORIES: “TAILS” OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Wednesday, June 7th

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

What fish are in our river? Learn the facts about the health of the Arkansas River based on the fish that live in its waters.

Ripple Effects

“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

~ Sir Isaac Newton

The Arkansas River is the foundation of the City of Wichita as well as many other communities along its 1,985-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. With so many people living near its banks, it is easy to see how the river collects litter and debris. Think of your yard as the riverbank. The stormdrains in Wichita connect to streams and the Arkansas River--even properties miles from the river drain to its waters. Thank you to everyone who stops and puts trash in its place—you are keeping our river clean!

If you know of someone or something that has created a positive environmental ripple effect in our community and should be featured in *H₂O*, contact the WATER Center at 316-337-9262.

An Unlikely Group of Volunteers

One of the most labor-intensive jobs at the WATER Center is performed daily by a group of small, feathered volunteers.

What does it take to be a great volunteer?

- ✓ An interest in the Center's goals?
- ✓ An ability to follow directions?
- ✓ Experience with tools?
- ✓ Reliability?

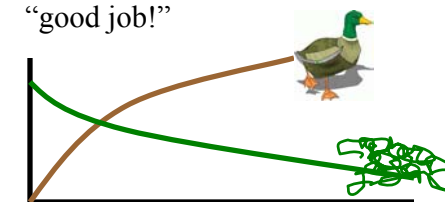
Sure! But what if a volunteer does not speak the same language as the staff, does not have the ability to use tools and is only *twelve inches tall*?

One of the hardest, dirtiest and most tedious jobs at the WATER Center is cleaning the fountains. Because no chlorine is added to the water, large mats of hair-like, filamentous algae fill and clog the pools. Previously it would take five or six volunteers an entire day of pulling out the green stuff and wheel-barrowing it to eroded areas in

the park. Discouragingly, within two weeks, it had all grown back.

Besides algae, the fountains and water features at the Center have always attracted mallard ducks. Since 2005, a larger number of ducks stayed up near the fountains rather than on the creek or river. Why? Green spaghetti! The ducks constantly nibble away at the algae keeping the fountains clog-free.

Next time you visit, toss them a cracker or piece of bread and say “good job!”



Ducks up, algae down.

River Trash Round-Up

We need your help! Come make the Arkansas River even more beautiful. Remember, “Our River is Our Responsibility.”

“Don’t Trash Wichita” efforts continue with this River Clean-up event. Various City departments, the Sierra Club, the Arkansas River Coalition, and many Neighborhood Associations will join volunteers as groups clean portions of the Arkansas River and

Little Arkansas River throughout Wichita.

When: May 6, 2006, 9a.m.-Noon

Where: Meet in the southeast Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot to receive bags, gloves and instructions.

WATER Center Staff

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services
“Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment”



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Save Time & Water

Landscape Smart Using Plants Native or Naturalized to Kansas

Have you noticed a jump in your water bill the last few summers? Do you spend hours watering your yard? Consider a few changes that could help lower your water bill and keep your yard beautiful too.

☞ Let the weather work for you. If rain is forecasted, wait to do your watering on another day.

☞ Mulch! This will help slow evaporation and keep weeds from germinating.

☞ Water during the morning – this is when plants are seeking water plus you will lose less to evaporation.

☞ Use a sprinkler that throws off large droplets close to the ground.

More tips can be found on the City's website at www.wichita.gov.



Did You Know?

The average person in the United States uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day. During medieval times a person used only 5 gallons per day.

~NJAWWA website